

THE CHARGE AGAINST COMMISSIONER SPOONER.

From what has been said in the Milwaukee Sentinel and other papers during the past few days regarding under-ground insurance and Commissioner Spooner, one might be easily led to believe that the insurance commissioner of the state was engaged in a scheme to enrich himself at the expense of the people.

There are a good many underground or irresponsible life insurance companies doing business in this state. They do not comply with the laws of the state. A person should insure in one of these companies, and should suffer a loss by fire, in case of a disagreement with the company in an effort to settle, he could not sue the company and recover. The point which insurance Commissioner Spooner wanted to make by the law of last winter was to force these companies to leave the state or comply with the law under which all responsible companies are doing business.

Under the old law he could not prosecute the underground companies because there was no provision made for the payment of expenses by the state. Finally, after a general but informal consultation of state officers, members of the legislature and prominent insurance experts, it was determined to draft a bill turning over this business of prosecution into the hands of the insurance commissioner—and half of the penalties collected, to him, instead of to the district attorneys, who would not and could not get; the bill also contained provisions allowing service to be made direct on the companies themselves, at their several headquarters. This bill became a law in the legislature of 1885, without a dissenting voice.

The Madison Democrat which had taken a position adverse to the law and the course of Commissioner Spooner, says: "The Democrat is surprised to learn, what seems to be a fact, that while the state is paying \$5,000 annually for an attorney general and an assistant, there is not a provision of law in existence by which these officers can procure a cent to pay expenses of litigation. Not a paper can be served, not a witness procured, not even a judgment can be entered by a clerk unless these officers pay the expense from their salaries. Of course such prosecutions as these underground insurance cases could not be carried on for a month by these legal officers without they were willing to pay out their salaries for a year in expenses. In the light of these facts, it is not strange that the cases were not prosecuted before the passage of the late law, providing half the fees for expenses. The commissioner frankly states that he hopes to win enough of these cases to make something, and as the case now stands both the insurance commissioner and assistant attorney general are clearly right in these prosecutions, and no citizen of the state has any good ground of complaint."

So the motive scheme which the Sentinel and a few other papers thought was a gross outrage and a public scandal turns out to be a very proper thing, and the more it meets with success, the better it will be for the people.

A FOOL AND HIS REWARD.

For a dozen years or more, one E. W. Armstrong, held the position of collector of revenue for the Utah, New York, district. Some time after the present administration got into power, Armstrong was removed and a democrat nominated to fill his place. Like most persons who lose an office, Armstrong became very much enraged and thought he was out-fariously treated. He went so far as to importune the New York senators to oppose the confirmation of his democratic successor. When the question of confirming the nomination came up in the committee meeting, it was decided to ask the secretary of the treasury for the causes which led to the removal of Armstrong. The secretary promptly obeyed and the senate was possessed of the desired information.

Among the documents which Mr. Manning sent to the senate pertaining to the case, was a letter which Armstrong wrote to the president's private secretary which contained in substance the statement that "though nominally a republican, he had always been a democrat in sentiment; that he had rendered the democrats all the aid in his power at many times in local campaigns, that he had voted for Cleveland instead of Bismarck, and that if he should be retained in office as a professional republican he could help the Democrats a great deal more than he could out of office."

This letter caused a good deal of amusement among republican senators, who, at once, voted to confirm Armstrong's successor. The senate did just right in exposing the real character of the man who was a self-confessed political traitor. Hereafter he will have plenty of time out of office to ponder on the danger that is sure to befall the man who follows the way of the coward and knave.

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript, recently "wrote up" Mr. and Mrs. La Follette, or Madison, and what was said about this young couple is well worth reading:

There is a young couple in congress who are, to say the least, an innovation. I say they are an innovation because their law partnership is defined on the oblique over their door as "La Follette & La Follette." Representative La Follette, of the Third Wisconsin district, is the youngest member of the house—under 30—and a republican. Mrs. La Follette is 25, but may be 25. Both were graduated at the state university at Madison, and a year afterward they were married. They are in personal appearance a youthful pair, and of unusual intelligence. Mrs. La Follette would be noticed for her rather large head, pale complexion, heavy eyebrows, and the "search-you-through" expression of her brown eyes. Mrs. La Follette would be taken anywhere for a pretty girl, rosy and blonde, whose dimples and smile suggest a happy, light-hearted character, but as little of the woman lawyer as it is possible to imagine. But she is the other member of the law firm at Madison, her husband's partner, and I believe was admitted to the bar at the same time. She is now taking a course of law at the Columbia college, entering about the same time that her husband was sworn in as a member of the house. Representative La Follette brings with him a reputation for oratory, and his friends say in this he possesses no ordinary gifts. Be that as it may, the firm of La Follette & La Follette bids fair to interest official circles.

Mr. La Follette gained a wide reputation seven years ago by carrying off the prize at the state and inter-state oratorical contest. The same prize was also won the year following by the Rev. Olin A. Curtis, who was located in Janesville three years; so that in two consecutive years the state and inter-state oratorical prizes were won by two Wisconsin boys—La Follette and Curtis.

Dr. Talmage preached a sermon last Sunday advising young women in regard to their choice of a husband. "There was a good deal of humor in the sermon and very much that was sober and sensible. In closing his discourse he said: "I counsel you to marry yourself with a man who is a fortune in himself. Lands, money and the like are all well enough, but two or three unlooked-for investments may turn them. There are men who are fortunes in themselves, who are worth more than lands and money. But I would also charge you don't look for a perfect man. If you find a man who is perfect, who is incapable of mistakes, don't unite yourself with him; what a wife you would make for him. In other words, there are no perfect men. The only perfect pair laid down the banks of Paradise together. When a man tells us he never sins, we know he lies. I had dealings with two perfect men and they both cheated me."

Contrary to the greatest wish of Mr. Blaine's enemies, that gentleman is not pining away and suffering social death, but is in good health, is as vigorous as when the democratic party in house covered beneath his withering rebuke, and is giving the people of the Kennebec country a lively and a happy winter. It is said there is a constant stream of visitors to the Blaine mansion. They go all the way from Washington and even from the west to see the Maine statesman. "Sleigh-riding and ice-boating, skating and bobbing are the unique features of the entertainment of guests in Maine at this season, while conventional dinners and teas and receptions go without saying."

During the prohibition craze two years ago, John B. Gough fell into the current of popular thought among the radical temperance reformers, and became a prohibitionist. He has had time to cool off since the blunder of the prohibitionists in 1854, and now he expresses the opinion that the liquor traffic can never be successfully fought as an issue in party politics, and then he said, "We will have to adopt the English style, and go strictly upon the moral suasion doctrine, and leave it out of politics. I do not fight a man who deals in liquor any more than I do the man who licenses him to sell it, or the society people who put it upon their tables."

The "Rev." Sam Jones is frequently quoted in his illustrations, incidents and anecdotes, but once in a while he touches the pathetic, as the following will show: "I think the finest tombstone I ever saw, was when I was visiting an old friend of mine. After dinner he took me into the garden, and in the most prominent place there was erected a beautiful tombstone of white marble, in memory of his wife, and on it I read her name and the date of her death, and her simple epitaph was this line: "She made home pleasant."

The country couldn't get along without Ohio. When that state hasn't a prominent candidate for office—and that rarely happened—it has election frauds, bribery, riots and the like, and it many times enjoys all of them at the same time. It would be a dull Union without Ohio.

Congress is great in its unparalleled genius for getting along slowly. The longer it sits the less it has to its credit.

Great Lockout of Cigar-makers. New York, Jan. 21.—Nine thousand cigar-makers and other employees of the trades employed by the Cigar Manufacturers' association, are idle. The employees have banded together to resist a recent attempt to fix uniform prices; hence the trouble, which has resulted in a lock-out. The packers will also join the other workmen, and then 10,000 men, women and children will be out of work. The manufacturers claim they have sufficient stock on hand to fill their orders for several months to come. The packers going out, they say, will not deter them from supplying their customers the stock now on hand, but not packed.

Meetings of the men were held Wednesday, and arrangements made for the support of the men on a strike. The men will be paid probably \$4 or \$5 per week. The men say they have enough funds to hold out for six months.

Will Retaliate on the Railways. Akron, Ohio, Jan. 21.—The action of the trunk line of railroads cutting off all shippers' passes has stirred up bad blood here. As a retaliation a measure known as "the switching bill," which passed the house of the Ohio general assembly two years ago, and was then fought off by a majority of railroad men, will be introduced. It compels all railroads in Ohio to place and remove cars of competing lines at shippers' pleasure at fair freight rates, instead of exorbitant rates as now charged for these short transfers. An attack will also be made on railroads issuing passes to public officers.

Turkey Tries a Costly Experiment. CONSTATINOPLE, Jan. 21.—The port has been closed with Ham Krupp, of Essen, for a large number of heavy guns, thus manufactured in the Turkish foundries having proved so much useless rubbish. The enormous outlay necessitated by these experiments with the German gunnery, together with the money thrown in experimenting with guns of the manufacture, has pressed heavily upon the finances of the port.

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MAXWELL CONFESSES.

30 A ST. LOUIS PHYSICIAN INFORMS THE PUBLIC.

The Proffer Tragedy a Case of "Murder by Imprudence"—The Deadly Dose Administered While Both Were Intoxicated—The Prisoner's Agitation.

St. Louis, Jan. 21.—An evening paper has the following story from Dr. M. R. Gaultier, a French chemist, who was for years connected with the secret police of Paris but has resided in this city for the past two years, has all along taken a keen interest in both a detective and scientific standpoint in the Maxwell-Pruitt murder case. Mr. Gaultier has visited Maxwell several times and has exerted considerable influence over him. Tuesday night the doctor located the apartment of the St. Louis College of pharmacy and inadvertently learned the fact escape him that he had obtained a confession from Maxwell. The doctor has detailed the interview in which he obtained the confession as follows:

"Security last accompanied by Mr. C. A. Meyers of 915 Olive street, I visited Maxwell. As we entered he was reclining upon his bed, nervously putting at a cigarette. 'How do you do, doctor?' I said. 'As I speak I am waiting up and waiting towards you.' He was pale and looked frightened. 'What do you want abruptly?' 'You know me, then this time?' 'Yes, what do you want?' 'I want to talk to you.' 'Indeed, I thought you had brought me a bottle of cognac.' 'I laughed, and Maxwell's features brightened. 'Oh, well,' he said, 'I am willing to talk to you.' I asked him if he had seen the hanging—referring to the execution of Wilson the day previous. 'I saw it from my window,' he replied. 'And you saw him struggling on the gallows and reaching up his hands when the rope caught?' 'I saw all that,' was his answer. 'Didn't it make you think of a bottle of cognac?' 'Yes,' he said slowly, 'I had nothing to think about. I was an innocent man.' 'I then,' said Dr. Gaultier, 'looked him in the face and, pointing my finger at him, said: 'Maxwell, you know that I have sounded you, and that I can prove that you are guilty. You killed Pruitt, and you can't deny it.' He looked terribly frightened and as though he were going to faint. Of course my declaration that I could prove his guilt was true. I approached him nearer, and laying my hand on his shoulder said, familiarly: 'I have no feeling of enmity against you, Maxwell, and now that I have studied the case I am satisfied they are leaving you to understand the case new. You were both drunk that night, and in mistake you gave Pruitt too big a dose of chloroform. You couldn't help it, but you killed him anyhow, didn't you?' 'Yes,' he said slowly, while his hands trembled, and his face grew even whiter: 'yes, I killed him.'"

"That settled it, he would talk no more, he would give no details, and after telling him I would see his lawyer and see what I could do for him, I went away." Dr. Gaultier inclines to the belief that Pruitt's death was a murder by imprudence. Maxwell in an interview denies the doctor's story in toto.

SPIRITUAL TREATMENT.

The Storey Will Case Brings Out Some Curious Facts.

CHICAGO, Jan. 21.—The Storey will case, on trial before Judge Rogers, and some curious letters from the late editor of The Times have been produced, the effort being to prove that he was not sound in mind when he made his will of 1881. Mr. Patterson read a number of letters written by Mr. Storey while in Wisconsin trying to recover his health. In one of the letters he says: "I, apparently, am much improving. The treatment they say, will make me feel worse at first. I am treated three times a week now. I talk with different Indian invisible every day, and they all give me encouragement. It is all very queer. We have had one old chief come twice when we have never had before. He is wonderful. I mean to stay here as long as I seem to be getting better. The place is very charming and wonderfully pleasant. If I can't get well here I can't anywhere." In nearly all these letters are references to a "ghostly" form whom he calls "Little Squaw" and who together with "Pete" seems to have the principal charge of his case. His theology undergoes a change while under treatment. They tell him that there is hell or devil but that all mankind will "get through" progressing in the next world through different stages until the highest "sphere" is reached, all of which he accepts as "more probable than the old doctrine."

SEVERE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

Fifteen Passengers Hurt and One Killed.

St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 21.—The passenger train bound for St. Joe encountered a broken rail Tuesday evening near Albany, when the whole train except the engine was thrown from the track and down an embankment fifteen feet, demolishing the cars. There were fifteen passengers on the train, and some escaped injury. An old man named Miller of Fairbury, Iowa, on the way with his wife to Leona, Kan., to see a sick daughter, was instantly killed, his neck being broken and skull crushed.

The others seriously injured are: Oscar Edwards of Burlington, Iowa, traveling for a Chicago clothing house, his scalp being lacerated from his skull, injuries supposed to be fatal; Frank Chambers of Burlington, Iowa, wound on head, injuries not serious; Clara M. Schaeffer, of Edgar, Neb., and two children; mother had arm and one finger broken, and the children were badly bruised. J. L. Haughey, of Albany, injured in knee; James A. Danner, Ottumwa, Iowa, cut over the eye; Charles A. Henly, scalp wound; Joseph Budd, conductor of the train, ugly cut on forehead and both wrists badly strained; Thomas Epperson, back sprained; Lewis J. Johnson, engineer, injured by the concussion and considerably bruised. The wounded are all at the Evans house in Albany attended by local physicians.

A Profitable Foreign Tour.

New York, Jan. 21.—Defective Pinkerton has found \$20,000 deposited in various banks to the credit of "Billy" Porter, the crackman who was arrested Monday. It is thought that Porter, "Sweeney" McKilloh, Frankish and others have made at least \$100,000 in their foreign tour. Porter's bank accounts have been attached by Marks & Sons, the Troy jewelers whom he robbed two years ago.

Gen. Grant's Funeral Expenses.

New York, Jan. 21.—Undertaker Stephen Merritt has received a check from the war department for \$7,500 in part payment of his bill for Gen. Grant's funeral, which amounts to \$14,000. The money that Mr. Merritt has received covered all the transportation expenses, including the cost of the funeral car and carriages.

An End to Home Scrapping.

Edward Shepherd, of Harrisburg, Ill., says: "Having received so much benefit from Electric Bitters, I feel it my duty to let suffering humanity know it. Have had a running sore on my leg for eight years; my doctors told me I would have to have the bone scraped or leg amputated. I used, instead, three bottles of Electric Bitters and seven boxes of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and my leg is now sound and well."

Electric Bitters are sold at fifty cents a bottle, and Bucklen's Arnica Salve at 25 cents per box by F. S. Sherer & Co.

SOME PROHIBITION FIGURES.

Showing How the Anti-Liquor Law Works in Iowa.

Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 21.—The open meeting of the state temperance alliance was well attended. The foreman, Wednesday, was devoted to local reports. In the afternoon the report of the secretary, Mrs. McMurry, was presented. It shows: 29 auditors report partial grants, 47; auditors report partial grants, 229; average number granted, 20, 16, 4, 13, and 2. Statistics from seventy clerks of courts show injunction cases under the prohibition law 23. Result of the cases: Pending, 37; temporary injunctions granted, 70; dismissed, 40; transfers to United States court, 91. Cases appealed from justice courts to district court, 347; cases pending, 107; dismissed, 31; found guilty, 81; pleaded guilty, 50; dismissed, 12; convicted, 25; failures on account of disagreement of jury, 11; trial, 11. The fines ranged from \$25 and costs to \$500. The latter were appealed to the supreme court. Imprisonment from 29 1/2 days to 120 days. Cases sent back to the justice courts, 154, on account of defects in evidence. Remit in justice courts, 140; convicted, 12; dismissed, 17; fines, \$5; pending, 69; the fines ranging from \$25 to \$100 and costs. Total amount of fines assessed from Sept. 1, 1884, to Dec. 1, 1885, \$3,021; total amount paid, \$3,941.30. Cases from reports of justices of the peace and townships. Cases for trial in court for violation since July, 1884, in 36 counties, 423; successful prosecutions, 355; townships and from 1905 number of saloons prior to July 4, 1884, 1,083; number discontinued, 701; number of townships reporting a majority in favor of enforcing the law, 457; townships reporting a majority not in favor of enforcing the law, 118; townships reporting a majority doubtful, 70; townships reporting an increase in criminal prosecutions since the law went into effect, 42; townships reporting a decrease in criminal prosecutions since the law went into effect, 202; townships reporting no apparent change in criminal prosecutions since the law went into effect, 254. Frequent gleeful allusions were made to the intended impeachment of Judge Hayes. J. A. Harvey was elected president to succeed Hon. Aaron Kimball.

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MUSEMENTS.

RINK!

POLO,

SATURDAY EVENING, JAN. 23.

WEST ENDS,

OF Milwaukee vs.

JANESVILLE.

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Admission, 25c.

JANESVILLE.

Thermo-Therapeutic

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Proprietors.

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